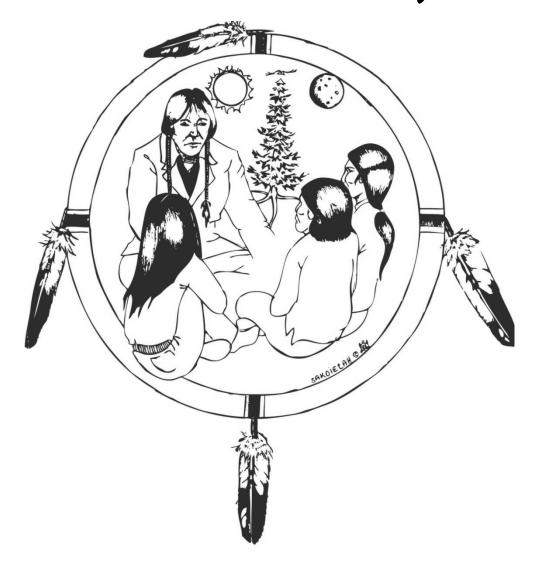
Ahkwesähsne Mohawk Board of Education



Post - Secondary Assistance Program Administrative Guidelines 2017

Canadian Institutes

Effective Date: 2017 – 2018

Fall Application Deadline: July 14, 2017 Winter Application Deadline: November 10, 2017

(If funds are available)

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POST-SECONDARY POLICY MAY BE AMENDED AS REQUIRED IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THEY ARE AWARE OF ALL CHANGES

Our Vision

To empower Akwesasro:non take leading roles in the community by pursuing a post-secondary education. Higher education will help our people become qualified to fill the vital roles within our community.

Our Mission

To provide information and financial assistance to community members who wish to attain a post-secondary education and/or skills development.

AMBE Policy #617 Post-Secondary Opportunities

The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education believes that it is important for community members to pursue post-secondary education opportunities. Post-Secondary education will allow community members to secure better paying jobs and to provide services and expertise to Akwesasne and neighboring areas. It is the desire of both the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education and the community to provide for and enter into self-government, self-reliance, and independence in planning and action. This requires well-educated and thoroughly trained citizens.

THE AMBE PSAP IS NOT A FULL FUNDING PROGRAM.

Students who have educational costs higher than the maximum allowances under the AMBE PSAP are encouraged to seek and secure supplemental financial assistance.

Administrative Procedures

The Post-Secondary Manager is hereby authorized to establish and implement administrative procedures on behalf of the Board. These procedures are necessary to the performance and achievement of the goals and objectives of the Post-Secondary Assistance Program.

Student Eligibility for Assistance

- 1. The student must be Onkwehonwe
- 2. The student must hold membership with the Mohawks of Akwesasne, <u>or</u> show proof of probationary membership status, possess a 159 band #, <u>and</u> Certificate of Residency (Residency I only). <u>Please refer to MCR # 2005/2006 #270</u>.
- 3. Students who have successfully completed secondary school and have been accepted by an accredited educational institution
- 4. Students 19 years or older who have been out of high school for at least one year and have not completed secondary school but have been accepted as mature matriculates by an educational institution
- 5. Students who have been previously assisted through the Post-Secondary Assistance Program and have been accepted for the Honors Degree, Master's Degree or a Doctorate Program.

Application Procedures

THE STUDENT MUST APPLY WITH THE POST-SECONDARY MANAGER TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES LSTED BELOW ARE FULLY COMPLETE AND UNDERSTOOD.

*<u>All</u> required documents as listed must be submitted by the established deadline in order for the student to be eligible for funding. Otherwise the application is deemed incomplete and the student will be ineligible for financial assistance.

*Checklist also included on page 11.

- 1. Every student must complete, sign and date the AMBE Post-Secondary Assistance Program Application each year that assistance is needed, and before the established deadline
- 2. Every student applying for a Canadian college or university must apply for a bursary and submit a copy of the application, or a confirmation of receipt
- 3. Every student must supply a copy of his/her course list (schedule) each semester
- 4. The new student must have the Mohawk Council Membership Office (OVS) complete a Membership Confirmation Form, <u>or</u> show proof of probationary membership status with a certified copy from the OVS Office (Residency I only), also possess a 159 band # <u>and</u> Certificate of Residency
- 5. New students must supply a copy of his/her letter of acceptance from the institution
- 6. New students must supply a copy of his/her HS Diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- 7. The new student must write an essay at least two paragraphs in length explaining why they want to gain a post-secondary education and their career aspirations
- 8. New students must complete a Career Interest Inventory
- 9. The continuing student must submit a copy of his/her grades from the previous semester/year by the application deadline, new semester schedule, post-secondary application, and bursary (if applicable)

Student Responsibility & Accountability

THE BOARD STIPULATES THAT:

- 1. It is the responsibility of each student to read the AMBE PSAP guidelines thoroughly and to fully understand how sponsorship works
- 2. It is the responsibility of each student to know the specific requirements for their certificate, diploma or degree program. The ultimate responsibility for meeting all sponsorship and graduation requirements rests with the student
- 3. All students (both full-time and part-time) must maintain a minimum of a C average per semester, based on his/her institute's policy (see pg. 8, "Grade Requirements")
- 4. The student must immediately notify the Post-Secondary Manager of any change in his/her program or schedule
- 5. Should any academic difficulties occur, the student must consult with the Post-Secondary Liaison to develop a plan of action in order to remain successful
- 6. The student must immediately notify the Post-Secondary Manager of any probationary measures taken against them by the educational institution
- 7. All students must submit a copy of their mid-term grades if the student is failing, monthly checks will be stopped until the student submits a note from the instructor(s) stating they are in good academic standing
- 8. The student must immediately notify the Post-Secondary Manager of any withdrawal from the education institution and provide an official withdrawal form. Students will be required to reimburse AMBE for the living allowance if they withdraw or dropout, the only exception is a documented medical leave.
- 9. Should the student be authorized to take an Emergency Medical Withdrawal from the institute, s/he must immediately notify the Post-Secondary Manger. The Director of Education will make final approval.

- 10. The student must submit grades as soon as possible and no later than 15 business days from the completion of each semester, including the final semester at the completion of the degree
- 11. In cases where a course is yearlong (September April), the student will be required to submit letters of Academic Standing from each course instructor. Students attending year-long courses and not passing at mid-year with the minimum passing grade of 1.5 must sign a contract with the Post-Secondary Manager to improve their performance. If a student is failing, sponsorship will cease for the second semester.
- 12. If a student fails to submit grades and/or new schedule in between fall and winter semesters, and a sponsor letter is not sent to the institute, the student is responsible for the bills
- 13. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all deadlines for tuition and financial aid are met by the college and funding agencies, other than AMBE Post-Secondary funding
- 14. Where fraudulent action is proven, the student will be notified of suspension of funding and all funds paid out must be repaid in full prior to continuing in their academic program. In addition, where the Post-Secondary Manager feels that a crime has been committed the proper authorities will be notified *NOTE: MCA Good Standing Policy is applicable*
- 15. Failure to comply with or meet the above requirements will result in immediate cancellation of funding and will affect future requests for funding.

Priority Selection Criteria

AFTER THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS ARE DETERMINED, A STUDENT WILL BE FUNDED ACCORDING TO THE PRIORITY SYSTEM BELOW:

Priority I: New students just starting their Post-Secondary Career, and continuing students in good academic standing

Priority II: Students starting post-graduate studies (Master's degree, Ph.D., J.D., etc.)

Priority III: Re-Admitted Student in Good Academic Standing: A student who has previously received funding from the PSAP, who was in good academic standing when s/he left

Priority IV: Re-Admitted Student in Poor Academic Standing: A student who has previously received funding from the PSAP, who was in poor academic standing when s/he discontinued NOTE: See "Grade Requirement", page 8

Levels and Limits of Assistance

ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED AT FOUR LEVELS OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION; ASSISTANCE MAY BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS TO COMPLETE ONLY ONE PROGRAM AT EACH LEVEL

Level I Community College and CEGEP Diploma or Certificate Programs

Length of Program Maximum Assistance

One-Year Certificate One Year & An additional semester (3 semesters)

Two Year Diploma/Assoc. Degree Three Years' Funding (6 semesters)
Three Year Diploma Four Years' Funding (8 semesters)

Level II Undergraduate University Programs (Certificate, Diploma, Degree)

Length of Program Maximum Assistance

Three Year BA, BS Degree Four Years' Funding (8 semesters)
Four Year BA, BS Degree Five Years' Funding (10 semesters)

Level III Advanced or Professional Degree Programs, or Masters Programs

Length of Program Maximum Assistance

One Year Master's One Year and additional semester (3 semesters)

Two Year Master's Three Years' Funding (6 semesters)

Level IV Doctoral Programs

Ph.D. One additional year of funding

NOTE:

- 1. Students may be assisted in Level 1 studies after dropping out of Level 2 studies if not previously exhausted funding at Level 1. AMBE PSAP policy conditions to apply.
- 2. The total number of academic years or semesters used within a level will be counted, regardless of whether the student changes programs or institutions
- 3. When a student takes a leave from their studies the time off will not affect their total funding eligibility, but the semesters used prior to the leave will be counted as part of the assistance
- 4. Students who completed a Level 2, 3 or 4 program, with or without PSAP assistance, are ineligible for program assistance for lower levels.

Residency Requirements

A STUDENT WILL BE FUNDED ACCORDING TO THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS BELOW: In order to attain Residency I status, a student must reside within the territory boundaries for one year

Residency I: A student residing within the jurisdiction of the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory.

*NOTE: A student who is Onkwehonwe and attended the AMBE elementary school system, <u>but</u> resides outside the jurisdiction of MCA (due to housing and land shortage), will be considered Residency I.

Residency II: A student residing 20 miles and farther, outside the jurisdiction of the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Territory.

Limits of Funding

Residency I: If a student attends a Canadian College/university, please refer to "Types of Assistance: Full-time Student" pg. 6.

Residency II: May be eligible for financial assistance up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 per semester (tuition only), plus \$300/semester maximum for books.

*NOTE: Depending on the funding available, the Board has the right to change the funding allocation with the approval of the full Board

Deadline to submit <u>all</u> required documentation is July 14, 2017

Types of Assistance: Full-Time Student

Students must have been accepted as a Full-time student by an eligible post-secondary institution for a degree, diploma or certificate program with duration of at least one academic year (two semesters). Schedule should reflect full-time status.

A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED FULL-TIME AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IS ELIGIBLE FOR: A) *Tuition Assistance*, B) *Tutorial Assistance*, and C) *Living Allowances* as stated below (Residency I only):

- A. *Tuition Assistance* includes student's fees for registration, tuition, books and supplies which are required by the educational institution (fees <u>not</u> covered: student insurance, parking, fines, local travel bus, e-texts)
- Undergraduate tuition assistance is available **up to a maximum of \$3800.00/semester** (based on tuition bill only, Residency I only)
- It is the student's responsibility to opt out of any optional student fees if they are not willing to pay for the said fees, that are above the maximum allowable tuition allocation (e.g., eye, accident or dental insurance)
- The AMBE PSAP does not pay tuition deposits
- Graduate tuition assistance is available up to \$5,000.00/semester (based on tuition bill, Residency I only)
- Tuition for a course can only be provided once; if the course has to be repeated the student must find alternate assistance
- If a student receives an invoice it is his/her responsibility to forward a copy of the invoice to the AMBE PSAP office immediately for payment before the due date. Any late fees incurred will be the students' responsibility
 - 1. Students will be issued an advance of \$300.00/semester for *books*. Any expenditure exceeding this amount must be justified by receipts and will be reimbursed by the AMBE PSAP (Residency I only). All receipts must be submitted to AMBE within two (2) months of the beginning of the semester. Maximum for books is \$1000/semester (exception year long courses)
 - 2. The PSAP will reimburse up to a maximum of \$50.00 for academic supplies per semester (pens, pencils, note pads, filler paper, highlighters, etc., no printer ink, backpacks, lanyards, lockers, etc.)
 - B. *Tutorial assistance* is available for full-time students experiencing academic difficulty. The PSAP is able to cover tutor fees at \$15.00/hour. The student and/or tutor are required to submit the Tutor Payment Voucher to the Post-Secondary Manager for payment. Vouchers are available at the Post-Secondary Manager's Office, or on the AMBE website.
 - C. *Living allowances* are provided for full-time students only (Residency 1). Dependents must be living with the student. Students who will be employed full-time, and will be earning a monthly gross wage equal to or more than their monthly allowance rate are not eligible for allowances. A letter from their employer stating their employment status (full-time or part-time) will be required.

- If a student chooses to live in residence on campus (dormitory), the student is responsible for the residence deposit fee; The AMBE PSAP will supplement the room and board charges **up to a maximum of \$9200/year**; the student must budget their meal plan so as not to exhaust it (the student will not receive a monthly living allowance)
- Students enrolled in online course studies are <u>not</u> eligible for monthly living allowances. Tuition and book assistance are provided. Grades must be submitted at the end of each course.
- Students enrolled in correspondence or independent study courses are not eligible for monthly living allowances. Tuition and book assistance are provided. Grades must be submitted at the end of each course.

EXCEPTION: A student enrolled in either a private vocational training center in Canada, or a "Fast Track program" is only eligible for the maximum tuition amount, no funding for room, board, books, or travel. *NOTE: The Board will NOT be responsible for personal bills, taxes, parking fines, insurance, professional test fees, school admission tests, etc.

Line Item Maximum Funding Levels

Tuition \$7,600.00/year

(1 year = 2 semesters or 3 trimesters) \$3800/semester, \$2533/trimester

Books (Required) & Supplies up to \$1000/semester (maximum with receipts)

Student Allowance Rate Monthly Amount below is applied

Allowances for Room and Board/Canadian Institutes				
	Allowance Categories/Monthly Amounts			
S1	Single Student	\$1,150		
S2	Single Parent with 1 dependent	\$1,350		
	With 2 or more dependents	\$1,500		
M1	Married student with employed spouse	\$950		
	With 1 dependent	\$1,050		
	With 2 or more dependents	\$1,150		
M2	Married student with dependent spouse	\$1,050		
	With 1 dependent	\$1,250		
	With 2 or more dependents	\$1,400		
M3	M3 When both student and spouse are full-time students, one student will receive the married student rate			
	and the other student will receive	\$1,150		

Travel Assistance

No local travel allowance (SLC & Iohahi:io). Commuting students receive a set rate of travel (\$200) for the semester (commuting means travelling away from Akwesasne).

Assistance for Uniforms, Equipment, Art and Photography Supplies

THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE MAY BE PROVIDED FOR A FULL-TIME STUDENT:

- 1. Special uniforms may be provided if specified by the educational institution, or identified by the instructor, for the students' program of study (one reimbursed per semester).
- 2. Funding for any special equipment must be identified by the instructor or stated in the educational institution catalogue. A maximum reimbursement to be paid for equipment will not exceed \$250.00/ semester. Any cost exceeding this amount will be the responsibility of the student. It must be absolutely required in order for the student to take either the course or program of study. (Revised 2014)
- 3. Students enrolled in an art or photography course will be limited to \$100.00/course reimbursement for supplies

Part-Time Student Assistance

Financial assistance will be approved for courses that are offered by an accredited college or university. Students must provide the Institution's acceptance letter, schedule of courses to be taken, and potential completion date. Students must pass their accredited course with a minimum of "C" before being funded for another course. General interest courses such as stained glass, woodcarving, etc., will not be funded

The criteria for a part-time student are listed below:

- 1. The student is considered part-time as defined by the institution being attended, and the schedule reflects part-time status.
- 2. The student will receive the cost of tuition (up to the maximum limit/course) and required books only, no living allowance or travel costs
- 3. A student may take part-time courses in any level toward the completion of a degree
- 4. Must apply to AMBE PSAP by the established deadline and submit all required documentation

Funding for Summer School

Students will be assisted based on full-time or part-time status if funding is available.

Grade Requirements

THE FULL-TIME STUDENT MUST ATTAIN A MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERGE (GPA) OF A "C" EACH SEMESTER TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASISTNACE. THIS WILL BE DETERMINED BY EACH INSTITUTION GRADE SCALE

The chart below will be followed:

LETTER GRADE/	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENT	
GPA		
A	4.0	
B+	3.5	
В	3.0	
C+	2.5	
C	2.0	
D+	1.5	
D	1.0	

GPA < 2.0 = **Probationary Status/ Potential Loss of funding**

Academic Awards

BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, THE AMBE PSAP WILL GRANT ACADEMIC AWARDS TO FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN THE RANGE OF \$100 - \$500. Students must meet the criteria below:

- 1. Must be enrolled full-time in a Level I, II or III institution
- 2. Must maintain a minimum of B+ or A- (3.5) grade point average (GPA) in a school year as determined below:
 - a. Semester System complete 2 semesters with minimum 12 credit hours or four courses each semester commencing with the fall semester and ending with the following winter semester concurrently
 - b. Trimester System complete 3 semesters with 9 credit hours or 3 courses each term commencing with the fall trimester, continuing into winter and then spring concurrently
- 3. Both Summer semesters and Winter term (the term between semesters, quarters or trimesters) will not be calculated when determining eligibility

Academic Probation

Academic Probation is a warning for students to perform better. A student is placed on Academic Probation with the AMBE PSAP if they fail to meet the 2.0 guideline and fall within a range of 1.5 - 1.99 semester GPA. The following conditions apply:

- 1. The student must achieve a 2.0 or "C" average the following semester after they are placed on probation. If a student fails to meet the grade requirement they are ineligible for assistance for one semester
- 2. The student must write an essay explaining the reason for the poor grades, and identify their plans to achieve a "C" average the following semester
- 3. Financial sponsorship remains in place during the probationary semester

Denial of Assistance

When a student fails to comply with the AMBE PSAP guidelines the Post-Secondary Manager will deny the student's funding. The student will be mailed a letter within 10 business days stating the reason(s). Some reasons for denial of funding are listed below:

- 1. The student failed to submit one or more required pieces of the AMBE PSAP application
- 2. The student did not meet the grade requirements of the C minimum GPA; the student must comply with the other requirements stated in the denial letter before being funded again
- 3. If the student received all failing grades in two fall semesters, s/he is ineligible for assistance for two semesters, and must comply with the other requirements in the denial letter before being funded again
- 4. The student did not submit their semester grades by the deadline
- 5. The student was fraudulently obtaining student funding
- 6. Failure to notify Post-Secondary Manager of a change in status (full-time to part-time)
- 7. If a student withdraws from all their classes she/he will not be eligible for financial assistance the following semester
- 8. If a student withdraws from all classes for medical reasons and does not produce a doctor's clearance stating that she/he is fit to return.

Deadline to submit all required documentation is July 14, 2017

Request For An Appeal Hearing

If the student does not agree with the decision of the Post-Secondary Manager, the student has a right to appeal. A student may appeal the decision on the following grounds:

- 1. If the student was deemed ineligible to receive or denied continued funding under the guidelines and the student believes the decision was made in error.
- 2. If the student believes that the guidelines and procedures of the program were not followed or applied objectively.
- 3. If the student believes the level and/or amount of funding that was awarded was not made in accordance with the program guidelines.

NOTE: There is no appeal against denial of assistance when a student exhausts their allotted funds. A student may not appeal the administrative decisions to INAC and appeal rulings made by the local appeal process.

Appeals Process

Within five (5) business days of receipt of denial letter, the student must forward a letter of appeal to the attention of the Director of Education. The Appeal Committee will meet within ten (10) business days after receiving the letter of appeal.

Appeal Committee

The Appeal Committee is a three (3) member committee of the AMBE. The purpose of the Committee is to hear appeals from students regarding the administration and implementation of the PSAP. The Committee shall be comprised of one (1) member from each district: Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne. The Appeal Board's decision is final.

Deferment Rules

When there are more eligible students than funds available students' sponsorship will be deferred, meaning that they will be funded as soon as funds are made available. The following deferment rules will apply:

- 1. The student is in good academic standing
- 2. A student was denied funding the previous semester
- 3. The student took extra steps to strengthen themselves academically

THE AMBE PSAP IS NOT A FULL FUNDING PROGRAM

Students who have educational costs that are higher than the maximum allowances under the AMBE PSAP are encouraged to seek and secure supplementary financial assistance

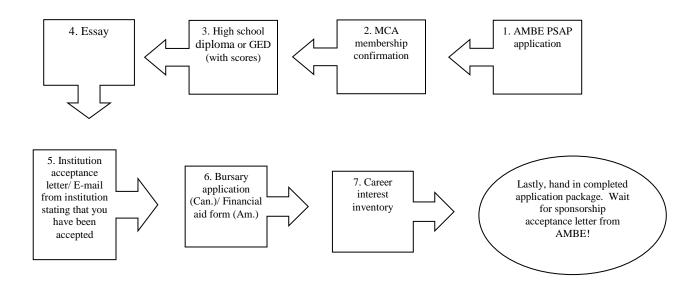
New Student Checklist

DID I:

- Complete the OCAS application at <u>www.ontariocolleges.ca</u> or OUAC application at <u>www.ouac.on.ca</u>.
- Respond to ontariocolleges.ca on-line when necessary
- ☐ Give the Post-Secondary Manager my acceptance letter and tuition bill with the application packet
- ☐ If I decide to live on campus, I will pay the deposit, then complete the application forms for the residence and meal plan and mail back to campus (or submit on-line), and be sure to give the Post-Secondary Manager copies of those bills
- □ Notify the Post-Secondary Manager about my residence (on campus, apartment in college town, or commuting from Akwesasne)
- ☐ Inform the Post-Secondary Manager when I will be leaving for school, and any other extra funds I may need for equipment, uniforms, etc.
- □ Complete everything else required for AMBE Post-Secondary Assistance See chart below

APPLICATION PROCESS

Seven necessary documents needed to apply to AMBE's Post-Secondary Assistance Program (PSAP) as a new student



Deadline to submit <u>all</u> required documentation is July 14, 2017

Continuing Student Checklist

Four Necessary Documents: □ AMBE Post-Secondary Application □ Current Semester Grades □ New Semester Schedule Bursary Application Copy Financial Information: □ Tuition Bill Living Arrangements (only check one): □ In-Residence on Campus (dormitory) □ Off-campus apartment in same town as school □ Commuting from Akwesasne Re-Admitted/ Re-Enrolled Student Checklist Five Necessary Documents: □ AMBE Post-Secondary Application Acceptance Letter □ Essay explaining your career goals, next steps, and if necessary, explain why you left the previous school or previous program □ Copy of Career Interest Inventory □ Copy of other bursary application Financial Information: □ Tuition Bill Living Arrangements: (only check one) □ In Residence on campus (dormitory)

Off-campus Apartment

□ Commuting from Akwesasne

Important Dates & Reminders

Financial Aid Application Deadlines

AMBE Post-Secondary Program

July 14 (fall) **November 10** (winter/spring)

Bursaries/Scholarships

Apply before deadline dates as required

Book Receipts Due:

Fall 2017 October 31st Winter 2018 February 28th

Important Reminders:

- ✓ All grades must be submitted at the end of each semester
- ✓ The AMBE PSAP application is due each year (annually) by the established deadline
- **✓** Mid-term grades must be submitted each semester
- ✓ Schedules/timetables must be submitted each semester



NOTES

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education

"Ie thi ha hon:nien – We make the road for them."

Our motto encompasses our vision and mandate of providing our children with the highest quality education possible and "building a road for them" that will lead to success.

Post-Secondary Assistance Program Administrative Guidelines 2017 Canadian Institutes

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